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from which to determine the cause or causes that produce the observed results," conditions are very generally and broadly described and statistics are non-existent. Thus, although lack of money is considered the principal cause of the phenomena studied, in the United States in 1837, 1857, 1873 and 1893 the amounts of paper currency in circulation were very large comparatively, while these were years of severe crises. The unusually large proportion of paper money to specie in crisis years is also significant.

All investigations have failed in the attempt to show conclusively one predominant cause of variations in business generally, and this one is no exception in this respect. It is, however, a very good presentation of the lack of an exchange medium theory and of the defects of the previous currency system in this country.

R. RIEGEL.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

CHANDLER, W. H. *The Express Service and Rates*. Pp. v, 340, and Supplement. Chicago: La Salle Extension University, 1914.

This work by the assistant manager of the traffic bureau of the Merchants' Association of New York contains a practical and clearly stated account of certain phases of the express business. Being written at this late date the author had the advantage of the important decisions rendered by the Interstate Commerce Commission which to some extent rendered obsolete earlier works dealing with express tariffs, classifications, rates and regulations.

The most valuable chapters of Mr. Chandler's timely book are those describing the newly prescribed system of quoting express rates, and the newly adopted express classifications, rates, tariffs and regulations. Much practical information is also contained in the chapters dealing with express forms, the express receipt, railroad contracts, public regulation, express company organization, and the money, financial, foreign, order and commission departments. It also contains a comparison of the relative rates and services of the express companies and the parcels post. The discussion in these chapters is supplemented with detailed tables of rates and the reproduction of numerous tariffs and forms.

Although the book contains a short historical chapter and another dealing with express capitalization and earnings, these subjects are not fully treated. It likewise makes no effort fully to describe the principles underlying express rates, and the factors considered in their determination. It is likely that it was not the author's purpose to enter into a lengthy discussion of these phases of the express business.

G. G. HUEBNER.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

DANIELS, JOHN. *In Freedom's Birthplace*. Pp. vi, 496. Price, \$1.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1914.

Among local studies of the Negro problem this volume stands easily in the first rank. It describes the career of the Negro in Boston from his advent in 1638, eight years after the settlement of the colony, through the vicissitudes of